

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application prior to this amendment.

By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 5-9 have been amended. Claim 10 has been added, and is now presented for consideration by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b):

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,313,868 B1 to D'Alfonso et al. (hereafter "D'Alfonso"). Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections for the following reasons:

In at least one example of the present invention, an information output section outputs at least one of a history information and information generated based on the history information. By using the history information generated by the history generating section and/or information generated based on the history information, it is possible to check an operation history of a zoom lens (which includes time information of an optical adjustment unit). In addition, it is possible to perform timed maintenance according to the operation history.

On the contrary, the D'Alfonso reference teaches that a memory device 34 stores a history of a camera head 3, such as total number of uses, total duration of use and other performance-indicative characteristics (e.g., see D'Alfonso column 6, line 62 to column 7, line 24). In other words, a camera control 1 determines when maintenance of an imager 32 attached to the camera control 1 is necessary.

As a result, D'Alfonso does not teach that the history information of the zoom lens, in other words, the history information of an optical adjustment unit (which is a zoom unit, a focus unit and an iris unit) is output. Thus, the present invention is distinct from the invention disclosed by D'Alfonso.

Accordingly, because D'Alfonso does not disclose each and every claim element of claims 1-9, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

III. New Claims:

Claim 10 is a new claim now presented for consideration by the Examiner. Support for this claim may be found on page 19 of the specification. Claim 10 depends from claim 1, and therefore, Applicants believe that claim 10 is allowable for at least the reasons stated in regard to claim 1 above.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5344. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5344. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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